

operations. Joshua James, referred to as the world's most celebrated lifesaver, rescued over 600 people during his 60 years of service in the 1800s. Jack embodies the traits of Joshua James—traits that all Coast Guardsmen aspire to.

Additionally, the Coast Guard presented to Jack the Meritorious Service Medal with a gold star and operational distinguishing device, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal with three gold stars and operational distinguishing device, and the Letter of Commendation with operational distinguishing device. Jack was also awarded the prestigious Navy League Douglas A. Munro Award for his inspirational leadership and professional competence.

A friend of mine, Retired Rear Admiral Jack Linnon, once called Jack Downey an Officer-in-Charge that he would entrust his own child to; a fact that is especially touching considering the dangers of the profession. "Youngsters turned over to his charge," Linnon said, "when transferred, had grown both in their professional development but also in maturity." Jack's greatest legacy may not be his personal heroics, but the wisdom, guidance and experience he has shared with innumerable Coast Guardsmen, from cadets to commanders.

Since 2006, Jack has served as the District One Command Master Chief at the First District Headquarters in Boston. By leaving this position, the Coast Guard loses one of its finest, most talented men. He has earned the respect and admiration from us and from people throughout New England. On behalf of a very grateful constituency, I want to say thank you to Jack and congratulations on a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH LAFFMAN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Keith Laffman on his eight years of dedicated service to the Office of the Attending Physician (OAP). Prior to his position at the OAP, Keith served as a physical therapist in the United States Navy, training at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, and then stationed at the Bethesda Navy Medical Center.

Working as a Physical Therapy Technician in the OAP since November of 2000, Keith has consistently maintained close working relationships with the patients he serves. His dedication to his work and patients, along with his ability to organize and manage, made him a competent and effective office manager during much of his tenure at the OAP.

Keith is an integral part of the team in the Attending Physician's office. As a person who has broken many bones and suffered multiple injuries, I can attest to the fact that Keith is one of the most professional, caring, and healing physical therapists I have ever worked with during my time as a patient. In addition to providing basic care to a wide variety of patients, the Office of Attending Physician provides a broad spectrum of services, including emergency evaluations, flu vaccinations, physician referrals, and occupational exams and certifications. Eight separate health units in Con-

gressional and other federal buildings ensure that the OAP is able to provide convenient and quality health care around the Hill.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Keith Laffman for his committed service to his patients, from visitors and staff to high ranking government officials. It is with great pride that I congratulate Keith for his work at the Office of Attending Physician and his continued exemplary service to our Nation.

HONORING FLORESTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Floresta Elementary School of Port St. Lucie, Florida. The National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project Youth Award has selected Floresta Elementary as Florida's Rookie Elementary School of the Year. Floresta was also selected as a Finalist for Rookie of the Year Elementary School at the National Level for 2008.

Floresta Elementary's school-wide project, "Floresta Dolphins NEED Energy," gave students from kindergarten through the fifth grade the opportunity to learn about renewable and non-renewable energy resources. Students in the fifth grade specifically focused on wind energy and worked to increase community awareness regarding Florida Power and Light's wind turbine project on the local coastline. The entire school also took part in Energy Star's Change a Light, Change the World campaign that encourages citizens to conserve energy by switching to more energy efficient light bulbs.

I am proud that the teachers, staff, and students of Floresta Elementary School are working to educate themselves and their community on what we can do to meet our country's critical energy needs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Floresta Elementary School.

THE DAILY 45: IT'S THE NATION'S PROBLEM

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. The reflections I continue to share happen in communities big and small, everyday, all across our nation. Like Chicago, the city of Los Angeles is having its own unprecedented wave of deadly gun violence.

Earlier this month, during the weekend of June 7 and 8, the Los Angeles Times reported that 14 people lost their lives to violence with most of those dying at the hands of a gun. That's 14 people who lost their lives in one weekend in only 48 hours! Why no national outrage over this senseless violence? Even though the headlines read that many of these deaths "appear to be gang-related," those

who died—regardless of their age, their economic status or their race—are children of God. They had lives that mattered to somebody. They certainly mattered to me.

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say 'enough is enough, stop the killing!'

THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY COMMUNICATIONS AND VIDEO ACCESSIBILITY ACT OF 2008

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, the advancement of technology over the last 20 years has revolutionized daily life for Americans. Most of us use some form of technology every day. Cell phones, computers, iPods, webcasts, and televisions are everywhere.

User-friendly technology is also important for people with disabilities. Televisions, computers, and cellular devices are available to the public at-large, but, unlike the "plain old telephone" there are no requirements to ensure that every American is able to use them. Technology can enable the disabled with things like specialized hardware that simulates the human voice reading the computer screen. Assistive or adaptive technology has taken down many barriers to education and employment for disabled Americans. The technology is there, and now we need to encourage its national availability.

Alice Marshall is a mother of two from Albuquerque, New Mexico. She works for the Bureau of Land Management and when she was watching the news a few weeks ago, northern areas of New Mexico were receiving warnings of possible tornados in the area. She was not aware of this news because it was scrolling across the emergency ticker at the bottom of the screen and Alice is blind. The only audio descriptor technology available to her has to be ordered by mail and costs about \$100.

Another constituent, Priscilla Stansbury, a grandmother caring for her 3 grandchildren, is not able to get information easily about snow days and school cancellation. She is blind and tells me that school cancellation and amber alert information generally runs along the bottom of her TV screen with no audio that she can hear.

The Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2008 would require that IP-enabled communication equipment manufactured in the United States have a built-in speaker and a closed captioning decoder. The speaker and decoder would allow Americans with visual and hearing impairments to access the Internet, computers, and cellular devices. Furthermore, it would ensure that IP enabled equipment is manufactured to be accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

Most Americans get emergency information over the radio, the television or the Internet. Warnings about tornados, such as the one we received on Capitol Hill the other week, should be accessible to all Americans. This bill would require audio and visual accessibility for those who are deaf and blind.